THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to disinvest 25% equity of VSNL to strategic partner and 1.97% to the employees of the Company.

(b) to (d) The advertisements seeking Expressions of Interest from interested parties to act as advisor(s) to the Government and to acquire the stake offered under disinvestment have been issued separately. The last dates for seeking expressions of Interest for advisor(s) is 22-2-2001 and from parties interested in acquiring the stake is 10-4-2001.

Disinvestment of Government shares in VSNL

386. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going ahead with disinvestment of Government shares upto 26 per cent in VSNL.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in the course of consultation the Department of Telecommunication had asked Government to have a separate meeting with Ministry of Home Affairs to examine and address the security concerns arising out of the privatisation of VSNL; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Government have, in February, 2001, decided in principle to retain 26% equity of VSNL and to disinvest the rest.

(b) and (c) security concerns would be suitably dealt with in consultation with department of Telecommunication and Ministry of Home Affairs at the time of disinvestment.

Amount invested in ERBC, ONGC, and OIL in NE region

387. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested by Government in ERBC, ONGC and OIL in North-Eastern region;

(b) the percentage disinvestment already made in these companies; and

(c) the percentage proposed to be disinvested now?